

Message Text

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ACTION SY-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 /018 W
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R 261339Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO AMEMBASSY PANAMA

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3502

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BOGOTA 5634

E O 11652 JULY 31, 1974

TAGS ASEC, CO

SUBJ: REPAIR OF EMERGENCY 200 KILOWATT GENERATOR

RTC PANAMA FOR TSO

1. OVER LAST 90 DAYS EMB HAS HAD SEVERAL PROBLEMS WITH 200 KILOWATT EMERGENCY POWER GEN. BELIEVE SEABEE TECH ASSISTANCE REQUIRED TO SOLVE THESE PROBLEMS.
 2. MAIN DIFFICULTY IS THAT AUTOMATIC START/STOP MECHANISM ON DIESEL ENGINE NOT WORKING. EMB HAS OBTAINED NEW AUTOMATIC/MANUAL SWITCH BUT THIS HAS NOT CORRECTED PROBLEM.
 3. ELECTRICAL CONTROL PANEL SPORADICALLY BREAKS CIRCUIT EVEN THOUGH STREET POWER REMAINS IN SERVICE. THIS PUTS GENERATOR IN SERVICE WITHOUT EXTERNAL POWER FAILURE.
 4. THERE HAS ALSO BEEN CONTINUING PROBLEM OF BURNED OUT AUTOMATIC RELAYS. RELAYS BURN OUT IN FAR LESS THAN NORMAL LIFE SPAN (WITHIN SEVERAL MONTHS).
 5. BATTERIES HAVE ALSO DISCHARGED FREQUENTLY. AS TEMPORARY REMEDY BATTERY CHARGER HAS BEEN USED TO KEEP BATTERIES IN OPERATING CONDITION, BUT THIS IS NOT SATISFACTORY PERMANENT SOLUTION.
 6. AT PRESENT TIME EMBASSY HAS RIGGED A MANUAL ARRANGEMENT FOR STARTING GENERATOR, BECAUSE OF UNRELIABILITY OF AUTOMATIC START
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SYSTEM. SHOULD EXTERNAL POWER BE CUT OFF, EMBASSY MUST RELY ON MANUAL START

FOR EMERGENCY POWER.

7. ABOVE PROBLEMS HAVE EXHAUSTED TECH EXPERTISE AVAILABLE TO EMB. PROBLEMS COMPLICATED BY COMPLETE LACK IN BOGOTA OF PLANS AND DIAGRAMS FOR PANELS THROUGH WHICH EMERGENCY POWER SYSTEM OPERATES. IF FEASIBLE SEABEE ASSISTANCE REQUESTED FOR CORRECTION THESE PROBLEMS. IF NOT FEASIBLE, DEPT'S ADVICE AND ASSISTANCE WOULD BE APPRECIATED.

8. RSO CONCURS THIS MESSAGE. VAKY

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